St. Bernard of Clairvaux Church

Second Sunday of Advent

December 7, 2025

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Mass Schedule

Sundays

Saturday at 5:00 p.m.
Sundays: 9:00 a.m.-11:00 a.m.- 5:30 p.m.
Spanish-Once a Month on Saturday's at 7:00 p.m.

Weekdays

Monday - Friday at 8:30 a.m. Saturday at 9:00 a.m.

Holy Days

8:30 a.m. and Evening Mass at 7:30 p.m.

Reconciliation

Saturday at 4:15 p.m. to 4:45 p.m.

Rectory Hours

Monday - Friday 9:00 a.m.-7:00p.m.
Saturday & Sunday 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.
NATIONAL HOLIDAYS - RECTORY CLOSED

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Introduction to the Liturgy of the Word
Second Sunday of Advent

A SPIRIT OF WISDOM AND UNDERSTANDING

Two weeks ago, I had the opportunity to be with a group of young parishioners as we discussed the reality of a large – though now stable number – of Americans, particularly Gen Zers and millennials, who define themselves as the "nones", individuals without any religious affiliation. We contrasted that with the phenomenon of great numbers of people converting or reverting to the Catholic faith, about 80% of these individuals between 18 and early 30s during the past couple of years. While the number of "nones", as previously noted has stabilized, the number of those coming into or re-entering into active Church life, continues to grow. As I have mentioned in a previous reflection, the two main reasons why this phenomenon is happening, according to the young adults themselves, is their dissatisfaction with what they see in generations ahead of them, and more pointedly, in their own parents. Stress, anger, anxiety, and a general sense of being adrift that they keenly notice has led them to the one place their parents and elders rejected years before, if not formally as in the "nones" then practically in how they live their daily lives. What separates the two groups, and this of course is a generalization, is that among the "nones there is little to no understanding of the nature of the Church, its purpose, or its teachings. Why would anyone want to be a part of something they did not understand or had misconceptions about. To put it in the words of the first reading from the prophet Isaiah, they do not have "a spirit of wisdom and understanding". Wise people desire to learn the truth and the understanding that flows from that. This is what makes all the difference in those young adults entering or reentering into the Catholic Church. They had and have the wisdom to move beyond the boxes that they were placed in to seek after truth which brings understanding. They choose to become Catholic not because of nice music, or lively Masses, or the friendly community they may have encountered, or because they happen to like Fr. So and So. They choose the Church because it is true. One example is a 22 year who said he entered the Church because he was part of one of the branches (Protestantism) but found it made much more sense to be part of the root (Catholicism). This takes a learning of the Fathers of the Church who built on the foundations of the Apostles. Again, wisdom and understanding lead to an embrace of truth. In today's Gospel reading from St. Matthew, we are called to bear the good fruits of our faith by preparing the way for the Lord. Yet how can we do this if we do not know the Lord or His Church. Again, seeking wisdom and understanding give us the tools we need to be effective evangelizers. Our Lord tells us that God will provide the tools we need by baptizing us in the Holy Spirit and Fire. The Holy Spirit is the Spirit of truth while fire can burn away the sins, doubts, and selfishness that oftentimes cloud our vision – if – we want those gifts of wisdom and understanding. As we continue our Advent journey to the celebration of the birth of Christ, we are invited through Sacred Scripture, to use this graced time to seek greater wisdom and understanding of Christ and His body the Church. This wisdom and understanding will well equip us to go forth as bearers of good news and faithful sons and daughters of the Church.
Fr. John Maduri

Monthly 50/50 Raffle

Contribution is $25 and the proceeds will be used for the ongoing renovation and rebuilding of the parish facilities. Winner takes home half the amount collected for the given month. Simply drop your entry at the rectory or in the weekly collection basket. The next winner will be picked on January 7th, 2026

This Month's Winner of $237.50 is Mr. & Mrs. George Marinello

Offertory Procession

If you or your family has an announced Mass intention for a loved one and you would like to bring up the Communion gifts **PLEASE** see one of the ushers before Mass begins. Thank you!

Christmas & New Year's Mass Schedule

Christmas Eve
Wednesday, December 24th
4:00 p.m. Family Mass,
8:00pm Spanish Mass &
Midnight Mass at
10:00 p.m.

Christmas Day
Thursday, December 25th
9:00 a.m. & 11:00 a.m.

New Year's Eve
Wednesday, December 31st
4:00 p.m.

New Year's Day
Thursday, January 1, 2026
11:00 a.m.

This weekend's second collection is a Parish Collection for Electric & Heat.
Thank you always for your generosity! It is greatly appreciated!

WEEKLY MASS INTENTIONS

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 6, 2025

9:00am Milovan Uckar

5:00pm Mary Lisa by Mike Piccinnini
Nicholas Burriesci by The Fandacone Family

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 7, 2025

9:00am Nicholas Grillo

11:00am Antonio Filippazzo by his Family
Richard R. Cerchione by his Family (25th Anniversary in Heaven)

5:30pm Salvatore Savettiere by St. Bernard Friends

MONDAY, DECEMBER 8, 2025

8:30am Ann Carsten by Tina Moore
Bernard & Jennie Maduri
People of the Parish

7:00pm Helen Rodriguez by Teresa & Thomas Sorrentino

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 9, 2025

8:30am Salvatore Ciccotto Happy Birthday in Heaven Love your Grandchildren, Great Grandchildren & Great Great Grandchildren

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 10, 2025

8:30am Patrick Morris

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 11, 2025

8:30am Louis Tedone
John McCarthy by his Family (Birthday in Heaven)

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 12, 2025

8:30am Victims of Sandy Hook & Uvalde Shootings

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 13, 2025

9:00am Lucy Capalbo by St. Bernard Friends on this Feast of St. Lucy

5:00pm Louis Poggioli by Lisa Poggioli

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 14, 2025

9:00am Gina Ferranti by Terry & Thomas Sorrentino
Nicholas Burriesci by Stephanie Puleo
Peter Magliulo by Your Loving Father
Carmela Magliulo by Your Loving Husband

11:00am Anthony Cincotta by his wife Helene

5:30pm Biagia & Francesco by Ilene & Frank

Bereavement Ministry
Working Our Way Through Grief
A journey from grief to healing for people coping with the loss of a loved one.
Saturday, December 13, 2025
11:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. in the Rectory
For more information please call
Barbara at 917-686-5444 or Maureen at 347-436-5192

Memorials

Altar Bread:
In Loving Memory of Lucy Capalbo
Donated by St. Bernard Friends

Altar Wine:
In Loving Memory of Lucy Capalbo
Donated by St. Bernard Friends

Altar Candles:
In Loving Memory of Salvatore Savettiere
Donated by St. Bernard Friends

Tabernacle Candle:
In Loving Memory of Bruce Granatstein & The Moore Family
Donated by Florence Granatstein & Family

Church Bells:
In Loving Memory of Lucy Capalbo
Donated by St. Bernard Friends

Altar Flowers:
In Loving Memory of Richard R. Cerchione
Donated by His Family
(25th Anniversary in Heaven)

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK

Justin Andrickson
Jourdanna Barton
Jim Bellard
Margaret Bracco
Morelda Brown
Michael C. Thomas Caliendo
Carmine Carriero, Jr.
Domenic Carriero
Nick Codella
Daniel Commisso
Janet Commisso
Irma Cruz
Francine Danza
Maureen DeMarinis
Donna Donzella
James Donzella
Rose Esposito
John Fahey
Teresa Fornaro
Jonathan Gan
Carole Gibbons
Tina Giberti
Mark Gottlieb
Robin Gottlieb
John Gullo
Ryan Hoefel
Micha Edmond Jordan
Jennifer Karayeanes
Ann Klauss
Greyson Livia
Eddie Boy McCarthy
Christine McCartney
Kelsey McCartney
Tannya Ortiz
Angela Pollio
William Prussing
Corinne Ramaglia
Gasper Sacco
Robert Sansone
Joanne Sarnicola
Stephanie Sheetz
Alberta Sirett
Shawn Anthony Smith
Gene Stark
Maureen Stewart
Cigdem Tanriverdi

Perform a Random Act of Kindness During Advent

Encourage someone who might need a little hope today.

For the second week of Advent, the Advent Candle of Peace has been memorialized
In Memory of

Salvatore Savettiere

By St. Bernard Friends

If you would like to add to any of our Christmas decorations "In Memory of" or "In honor of" your loved ones, forms are available in the church & Rectory.

Faith Formation News

First Holy Communion 2026

Saturday, May 9, 2026
11:00am-St. Bernard Catholic Academy 1:00pm-St. Bernard Religious Education Program

Visit The Kids Korner

- Mass intention cards for all of the children in our parish community.
- Weekly envelopes as part of a Stewardship effort for the children to understand and participate in the gift of giving.
- Reading material and resources for children and families.
- Take a look each week for activities or reading material and other little surprises that will reinforce the message of the Gospel. Imagine the conversation on the way home from church.

Matthew 25 Ministry

Advent is here!

That means our **GIVING TREES**

are up and decorated with "ornaments" for children and families in need. The Christmas Elves have worked behind the scenes and we are so thankful to have their continued help. This year gifts need to be back **by December 14th**. Tags will be marked accordingly. Please check the back of the tag for return by date. Among the recipients of the generous gift of our parish community are *Hour Children* (children of incarcerate women), *Mercy First* (foster children), *Catholic Charities, Our Lady of Mt. Carmel* (Deacon Ruben & Deacon Jorge), *Sisters of Life* (unwed/homeless pregnant women), *some other organizations that have reached out to us and some neighborhood residents.* Our gifts will brighten the lives of many ranging from the yet unborn and their moms through children of all ages and the adults of Mercy Home. Please feel free to purchase a gift now, at your leisure, if the timing is better for you. The sales will be starting quickly. If you choose to purchase a gift ahead of time, please **just label the gift with the age and gender** so we can sort them easily. Many of the requests we receive are not specific so you can get a jump on your Christmas shopping if you like! Additionally, we always receive many requests for teens especially from MERCY FIRST and HOUR CHILDREN. **Gift cards** are always a great idea for that age group! Please remember to bring your gift **UNWRAPPED** and attach the ornament from the tree to it.

Order of Christian Initiation of Adults

The Order of Christian Initiation of Adults (O.C.I.A.) is a process by which a person prepares to become a member of the Roman Catholic Church. The process is one of inquiry, evangelization, prayer, study and conversion, leading to one's entrance into the church through Baptism, Confirmation and the Eucharist. OCIA welcomes the unbaptized as well as those baptized in other Christian traditions. OCIA also welcomes those who have been baptized Catholic but who have not completed their sacraments of Eucharist or Confirmation. **Anyone who is interested in participating in this program is asked to call the Rectory now and speak to Deacon Frank.**

Stewardship Thought

"Therefore, every tree that does not bear good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire."
Matthew 3:10

Do you bear good fruit for Jesus? Do you spend time in prayer or do you waste it with mindless activity? Do you use your talent to help others or are you too busy? Do you use your treasure to support the Church or do you buy more things that go unused. Our time, talent, and treasure are gifts from God. What we do with these gifts is our gift back to Him. What gifts are you planning to give to the Lord during this upcoming Christmas season?

CHRISTMAS DATES

Christmas Wreath Sale

Friends of Scout Troop 76
will be selling
FULLY DECORATED
CHRISTMAS WREATHS
Great Price: $25.00

Christmas Tree Lighting

The lighting of our Parish Christmas display will take place on Saturday, December 13th following the 5:00 p.m. Mass. All are invited to attend, sing Christmas Carols with us and enjoy some nice hot chocolate as we turn on the lights for the beginning of the Christmas season.

Breakfast with Santa Hosted by St. Bernard Catholic Academy

Sunday, December 14, 2025
10:00am following 9:00am Mass
Come meet Santa and have a photo taken. Raffles & 50/50
Don't miss a wonderful fun time!
Open to all!

Knights of Columbus Christmas Party

Thursday, December 17th
6:30pm in the Parish Hall
Food, fun and Christmas cheer! Free to all.
There will be a visit by Santa Claus!
All are welcome!

Active Parish Campaign Summary

We have received from 86 Donors- there are

OVER 1,000 FAMILIES REGISTERED IN OUR PARISH

There are 8 weeks left in the year. If each additional Family gave $100
WE WOULD REACH OUR GOAL AND HAVE AN EXCESS TO USE FOR OUR PARISH MINISTRIES AND PROGRAMS!

IF WE DO NOT REACH OUR GOAL, WE WILL NEED TO PAY THE DIFFERENCE!

If you have already made your pledge – Thank you!

If you have not - Please support the ***2025 Annual Catholic Appeal. Thank You!***
No gift is too large or too small!

Give WHAT YOU CAN When you can!
Watch the ACA video and see our own Deacon Chris Wagner talk about how the ACA helped with his Formation!
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0H-QNBivn9I

Feast of the Immaculate Conception

Monday, December 8th
we celebrate the
Feast of the
Immaculate Conception.
It is a Holy Day of Obligation.
Masses will be at
8:30am and 7:00pm

Our Lady of Guadalupe

Novena Nights of Preparation in Spanish
Wednesday, December 10th
7:00pm St. Bernard
Thursday, December 11th
7:00pm St. Bernard

Friday, December 12th
6:30pm
Procession,
Mass with Mariachis
& Fiesta in the gym
St. Thomas Aquinas
1550 Hendrickson Street

For the Military

If you would like to add a loved one that is in active duty in the military, please call the rectory with their name and branch of service and we will add them to a list of military members to pray for. Thank you. Almighty & eternal God, protect these men & women as they discharge their duties. Protect them with the shield of your strength and keep them safe from all evil and harm. May the power of your love enable them to return home in safety, that with all who love them, they may ever praise you for your loving care.
We ask this through Christ our Lord, Amen.
Shane Cawthon (Army)
Frank Gargano (Army)
Michael Gargano Jr. (Navy)
Marcello Gargano (Army)
Andrew-Jude Lao (SPC 2 Space Force)
Joseph Milone (Marines)
Ryan Moravcik (Army-Cavalry Scout)
Liam O'Connell (Navy)

ASSOCIATED VINCENTIAN CHARITIES OF BROOKLYN GIVES BACK

"My Car Went To Heaven"
For each car, truck or van running or not the Associated Vincentian Charities will give back to your parish $75/$200 per vehicle.
If you, a family member or friend have an old or neglected vehicle that is not being used, please call (718) 491-2525
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Thank you for your participation

St. Bernard Weekly
Mass Attendance
Weekend of November 22nd
& November 23rd, 2025

Saturday, November 22nd 5:00pm-145
Sunday, November 23rd 9:00am-141
Sunday, November 23rd 11:00am-320
Sunday, November 23rd 5:00pm-32
Total-638

The Knights of Columbus council #14269 completed its annual donation to St Bernard Church & Academy on Sunday September 21st. The annual donation totaled $26,500.00.
DOING GOOD WHILE HAVING FUN!
ARE YOU A KNIGHT WHY NOT?
USE THE QR CODE TO JOIN US!

Membership

Parish Phone Numbers

RECTORY OFFICE: 718-763-5533 **FAX**:718-763-0224
EMAIL: sbchurchbrooklyn@aol.com
ACADEMY OFFICE: 718-241-6040
SCHOOL OF RELIGION: 718-763-5533

Gift Shop Hours

Weekdays 8:30 a.m.-9:00 a.m.
Saturday 9:00 a.m.-9:30 a.m., Sunday 8:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m.

Devotions

MIRACULOUS MEDAL NOVENA
MONDAYS
Novena after the 8:30 a.m. Mass
ROSARY
Monday - Friday after 8:30 a.m. Mass
Saturday after 9:00 a.m. Mass
FIRST FRIDAYS
Exposition: 9:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. in Chapel

Baptisms

Scheduled for the fourth Sunday of each month at 12:30 p.m. Parents are required to schedule an appointment with a Priest or Deacon at least six weeks prior to Baptism.

Marriages

Arrangements must be made with a Priest or Deacon at least 6 months before the wedding.
Pre-Cana information can be found at **www.pre-cana.org.**

Sick Calls

Please call the Rectory to arrange a Communion call to the sick or elderly, or a pastoral visit to a hospitalized loved one.

Vocations

Anyone seeking information regarding the Priesthood, Permanent Deaconate, Religious Life or to serve in our Parish as a Lay Minister should speak to Fr. Maduri, Fr. Mike, Dcn. Frank, Dcn. Chris or Dcn. Herb.

Parish Membership

All new families are welcome to the Parish and encouraged to become actively involved in parish societies and activities. New parishioners should register at the Rectory as soon as possible. Parishioners are asked to use the weekly envelopes in making their contributions.

Catholics Come Home

Please feel free to invite those who have been away from our parish to attend Mass with you. If there is anyone you know of that is upset with the church and feels that my speaking to them would be of help, please let me know so that I may speak with them. Fr. Maduri.

Consider Leaving a Legacy of Faith

Remember Our Parish in Your Will
When you next update your estate plans, please consider continuing your lifelong stewardship by leaving a bequest to St. Bernard. For more information please see Fr. Maduri.

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